

Today's News - Monday, March 12, 2012

- ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of OMA's Milstein Hall at Cornell, and Koolhaas and Obirst's tome on the Metabolists.
- Q&A with Hitoshi Abe on the first anniversary of the Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami: his "goal is to educate everyday citizens...how to better cope with large-scale natural disasters" (including the traveling exhibition "Moving Forward: Life After the Great East Japan Earthquake" now on view at UCLA's Fowler Museum).
- Doig delves into a dilemma facing many cities: will all those great projects taking back industrial waterfronts kill shipping just as the maritime industry is booming?
- Peirce parses freeway teardowns and "bold urbanists looking to reclaim lost city land" across the U.S.
- In Canada, Hume ponders Toronto's Gardiner Expressway: "even as the city fills up with condos little thought has been given to what's happening down below...we need to figure out what can be done with this strangely invisible terrain."
- Mays cheers a plan to fill one of Toronto's "hard-to-build-in cranky spots with housing that is urbane, original and well-knit into the urban landscape."
- Rochon can only hope that Vancouver and Toronto are ready to let Bjarke Ingels soar: "What I fear is that Vancouver's long tradition of handmaiden architecture may slay the dream of the BIG tower."
- The case for "extroverted" community-oriented school design: an approach that can "truly empower students to take ownership of their own education and community and, perhaps, break free from the cycle of poverty."
- Rosenbaum raises a preservationist alert re: Paul Rudolph's Orange County Government Center: it may be on the World Monuments Fund 2012 Watch List, but what we may soon "watch" is its demolition - "where's the outcry from the architectural and preservationist communities?"
- The restoration of the Tugendhat House, Mies's "sumptuous masterpiece" in Brno, is one example of "a new approach to preserving Modernist buildings" that "now takes an 'archaeological' view, yielding superb results" (fab slide show!).
- A blue ribbon panel is convened to determine the fate of an 1888 Romanesque Revival building in Quincy, IL, that - until recently - housed the now-defunct Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design.
- Sydney claims a green milestone: FJMT Architects' Commonwealth Bank Place is Australia's first project to achieve a 6 Star Green Star - Office As Built v3 rating.
- Sarasota's "newest architectural landmark" is "a tribute to green building" in an unlikely place: a campground - "We wanted the 'wow!' factor."
- Prince-Ramus revisits San Diego and offers his "very firm views about how Americans should live - and it shouldn't be in traditional, far-flung suburbs."
- Levinson's report on Design Indaba 2012 in South Africa: "One strongly recurring theme was that of professional growth and creative redefinition" and "the need to leverage billable hours to support pro bono endeavors" (great images and links).
- Chaban offers interesting musings on Kimmelman's "new and bracing way to write about architecture."
- Job opening: RISD is looking to hire Dean of Architecture + Design.
- ArchDaily Buildings of the Year 2011 (great presentations).
- ArchNewsThen: ANN posted its very first feature on March 11, 2002: "Critical Ingredients in Urban Placemaking" by Randy Shortridge (just as timely today).

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-- OMA: Milstein Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
-- Book: "Project Japan: Metabolism Talks" by Rem Koolhaas & Hans Ulrich Obrist

Q&A: Hitoshi Abe on design lessons from the Great East Japan earthquake: ...a native of Sendai, Japan, the one-year anniversary of the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami that hit his hometown and devastated his birth country is a heart-wrenching event. But it is not one without hope...his observations on the resilience and creativity of everyday Japanese people as they engage in the long-term struggle to recover. [images, links] - SmartPlanet

On the waterfront, the battle rages on: That dock would make a great park. The water view is perfect for a new loft. Will gentrification kill shipping? ...in today's high-design cities, where "reclaiming" waterfronts for parks and dining, and "reconnecting" neighborhoods with their harbors, is seen as a way to lure high-earning residents. The problem (if you can call it that) is that this is happening just as the maritime industry is booming... By Will Doig - Salon

City Freeway Teardowns: More on Their Way? Increasingly bold urbanists are looking to reclaim lost city land...to restore livability to downtowns and neighborhoods...But there's another key motive: belief that demolitions will trigger dramatic flows of new private investment and increased real estate value as the scourged city acres are redeveloped. By Neal Peirce - Citiwire

Toronto's towers and life under the Gardiner: As more and more people pour into the downtown condo core, old obstacles like the Gardiner must be adapted for new uses...even as the city fills up with condos...little thought has been given to what's happening down below...we need to...figure out what can be done with this strangely invisible terrain. By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star

A builder's plan to fill Toronto's nooks and crevices: Entrepreneurial developer behind Context King West comes up with intelligent strategies for those hard-to-build-in downtown areas...has figured out a way to fuse and fill some of these cranky spots with housing that is urbane, original and well-knit into the urban landscape. By John Bentley Mays -- Ken Greenberg; Hariri Pontarini Architects [image] - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Is Vancouver ready for Danish architect Bjarke Ingels? Here's hoping: ...when an international sensation...comes along and lands skyscraper commissions in Vancouver...and in Toronto...it's important to ask: Will he be allowed to soar in Canada? By Lisa Rochon -- BIG/Bjarke Ingels Group; James K.M. Cheng Architects; Dialog - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Community-Oriented Architecture in Schools: How 'Extroverted' Design Can Impact Learning and Change the World: ...one that draws students and members of the community into the school just as it encourages students to interface outward...Only with a community-oriented approach can a school truly empower students to take ownership of their own education and community and, perhaps, break free from the cycle of poverty. -- Yazdani Studio/Cannon Design; DLR Group; Open Architecture Challenge; Justified Architecture [images, links] - ArchDaily

Preservationist Alert: Important Paul Rudolph Building in Goshen May Be Knocked Down: Orange County Government Center is on the World Monuments Fund's 2012 Watch List of endangered cultural-heritage sites. But what the WMF may soon "watch" is the demolition of the building that it has called one of Brutalist American architect's "greatest achievements"...where's the outcry from the architectural and preservationist communities? By Lee Rosenbaum [images, links] - ArtsJournal

Less Is Still More: The Restoration of the Tugendhat House Brings Mies's Modernist Masterpiece Back to Life: ...sumptuous masterpiece in Brno, Czech Republic...a new approach to preserving Modernist buildings...now takes an "archaeological"

[view, yielding superb results...](#) -- Ludwig Mies van der Rohe; Iveta Cerná; Eileen Gray; Jean Badovici; Le Corbusier [slide show]- Wall Street Journal

[Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design donated to Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County: ...creating a blue-ribbon committee to determine whether there is adequate support to reopen the museum or pursue some other use for the historic building...](#) -- Patton and Fisher (1888); Ernest Wood (1929) [image]- Quincy Herald-Whig (Illinois)

[Commonwealth Bank Place, Sydney, achieves Australian first for green innovation: The Green Building Council of Australia \(GBCA\) has awarded the building in Darling Quarter Sydney a 6 Star Green Star – Office As Built v3 rating, making it the first ever building to achieve the milestone.](#) -- FJMT Architects - Architecture & Design (Australia)

[Sarasota Sun-n-Fun wellness center a tribute to green building: ...newest architectural landmark brings the city's modernist tradition to an unlikely place: a resort and campground..."We wanted the 'wow!' factor"...](#) -- Carlson Studio Architecture-Herald- Tribune (Florida)

[REX of architectural world stops in San Diego: Urban centers can save the planet: Joshua Prince-Ramus has very firm views about how Americans should live -- and it shouldn't be in traditional, far-flung suburbs..."if we don't stop horizontal expansion of cities, we're going to be in very serious trouble."](#) By Roger Showley- San Diego Union-Tribune

[Design Indaba 2012, South Africa: One strongly recurring theme was that of professional growth and creative redefinition...the search for opportunities to move from client-driven commissions to more personal and ambitious work, or the need to leverage billable hours to support pro bono endeavors.](#) By Nancy Levinson -- Bjarke Ingels /BIG; Alfredo Brillembourg/Urban Think Tank; Heinrich Wolff/Noero Wolff; Tsai; Carlo Ratti/Assaf Biderman/MIT Senseable City Lab [images, links]- Design Observer

[Michael Kimmelman Will Not Play Your Architecture Games: ...a new and bracing way to write about architecture. In the past, the museum would likely have been compared to others of its ilk...It is peg versus peg...he seems to care very little for these games and would rather focus on whether or not that peg fits into the hole into which it has been placed...](#) By Matt Chaban- New York Observer

[RISD is looking to hire Dean of Architecture + Design: application deadline: April 1](#) - Rhode Island School of Design/RISD

[ArchDaily Building of the Year 2011: ...14 categories, this year's winners vary from emerging young architects to the most prestigious offices.](#) -- ACXT; OMA; RO&AD Architecten; Steven Holl Architects/Solange Fabiao; Építész Stúdió; Rojkind Arquitectos + ESRAWE Studio; Metaform Architects; Mima Architects; rare; Snøhetta; Cerejeira Fontes Arquitectos; M&AS Arquitectes; Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects; Pedra Silva Architects [images, info]- ArchDaily

[ArchNewsThen \(March 11, 2002\): Critical Ingredients in Urban Placemaking: Successful public spaces, whether new, revitalized, or reclaimed, rely on a number of elements.](#) By Randall H. Shortridge/RB+B Architects (formerly with RTKL) [images]- ArchNewsNow

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